

### **Acadia National Park, Land Acquisition, Land and Water Conservation Fund -- \$3,050,000**

In 2010, Acadia National Park has an opportunity to acquire key parcels within its Congressionally-designated boundary. Available from willing sellers, these land acquisition opportunities will protect critical natural resources, enhance wildlife habitats, and bolster visitor experiences for the more than two million people who venture to Acadia each year. The locations are at risk for private development if the Park cannot acquire them soon. Also, both are prime wildlife habitat. Specifically, this project will purchase 30 contiguous acres on Round Pond and 37 acres on Lower Hadlock Pond.

### **Acadia National Park, Modernizing Transportation Information Systems and Infrastructure for the Island Explorer, Bar Harbor, Maine -- \$553,500**

The Island Explorer is the fare-free, propane-powered bus system that operates in Acadia National Park and the surrounding gateway communities. The system has carried about 2.9 million passengers in its first 10 operating seasons. Funds would upgrade the Island Explorer's Intelligent Transportation System servers and computers; link these systems to new and upgraded variable message signs at key visitor locations, and complete design, engineering, and environmental compliance for 12 bus stops in important locations in Acadia. This project will make the Island Explorer even more user-friendly, encouraging ridership, and thereby decreasing road maintenance needs and air pollutant emissions

### **BioDiversity Research Institute, Maine Mercury Monitoring Network, Gorham, Maine -- \$250,000**

This would initiate a Maine Mercury Monitoring Network to track mercury pollution hotspots, assess the impact of mercury emission policies, and protect human and ecosystem health in Maine. Recent studies indicate that at least six percent of women of childbearing age in the United States carry enough accumulated mercury in their bodies to pose the risk of adverse health effects to their children, should they become pregnant. Currently, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) relies primarily on computer models that are not peer-reviewed and not verified with observed data to predict the extent of mercury pollution and make regulatory decisions. Scientific studies have exposed flaws in the EPA models and demonstrated mercury pollution where EPA predicted none existed. This would help improve EPA models with detailed observations of mercury pollution hotspots in Maine.

### **City of Portland, Deering Oaks Park Pond Rehabilitation, Portland, Maine -- \$2,500,000**

This would provide for the design and construction of the infrastructure improvements to address the environmental and public health risks caused by combined sewer overflows (CSO) and storm water runoff which pollute Deering Oaks Pond and create a blighting impact on the park and surrounding neighborhoods. Deering Oaks Park, where the Pond is located, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. However, due to CSO problems, the Pond is deteriorating and poses an environmental and public health risk. Water quality tests show high levels of coliform bacteria which requires the City to restrict or prohibit people from using the pond.

**Limestone Water & Sewer District, Greater Limestone Regional Wastewater Treatment Facilities, Limestone, Maine -- \$3,000,000**

The proposed project is the second phase of upgrading the LWSD's wastewater treatment facility (formerly part of Loring Air Force Base, closed in 1994). The improvements are new pipes and pumping stations. It also will include installation of energy efficient and green (solar voltaic panels) equipment for the effluent pump station. These upgrades will assist the Loring Development Authority (the organization established to create new business opportunities at the former Air Force Base site) to attract new industry and possibly reactivate an existing power plant. This will also allow for the waste discharge to be removed from the Little Madawaska River which will improve trout and salmon fishing and water quality as well as minimizing increases in sewer user fees and bringing the facility into compliance with the MEDEP Toxic Reduction Evaluation Program. These industries would create temporary and permanent jobs as well as tax revenue for local communities and the state.

**Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge, Maine Seabird Nesting Islands -- \$1,650,000**

The Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge is seeking to acquire five Nationally Significant Seabird Nesting Islands and a key parcel on a sixth island. These six nesting locations are scattered among a collection of more than 4,500 islands of which 377 have been designated as Nationally Significant Seabird Nesting sites by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. By adding this wildlife habitat to the refuge, it will help the Fish & Wildlife Service better meet its many obligations, including ensuring the health and welfare of seabird species and conducting research. These fragile ecosystems are home to an array of birds found nowhere else in the United States, including: common, Arctic, and endangered roseate terns; Atlantic puffins; razorbills; black guillemots; Leach's storm-petrels; laughing gulls; and common eiders.

**Maine Department of Conservation, Katahdin Forest Expansion -- \$3,700,000**

This will provide matching funds to state and local resources for the easement and fee protection of 19,647 acres of undeveloped lake front and forest land in a portion of the country valued for its forests and associated natural resources. The Katahdin Forest Expansion project area includes five parcels totaling 19,647 acres in the heart of Maine's northwoods and will connect to existing recreation and conservation lands north and south of Millinocket, Maine, a central recreation and tourism town. It complements and enhances previous federal investment in land protection around Baxter State Park. In addition, the viewshed from the summit of Mount Katahdin and the federally designated Appalachian Trail will be protected. The tracts include portions of popular snowmobile and ATV trails, and the Seboeis area also hosts ATV trails. The Katahdin Forest Expansion project has been submitted by the State of Maine through the Forest Legacy Program, a federal program authorized by the 1990 Farm Bill and funded through the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. It is the number two ranked request in the President's budget request.

**Maine Department of Conservation, Rangeley High Peaks Project -- \$3,460,000**

This request is for federal Forest Legacy funding for the Rangeley High Peaks Project, Phase 1, which will protect three parcels of forest land totaling 13,446 acres in the towns of Rangeley, Madrid, and Mount Abram Township in Maine. These parcels are critical to the conservation values for the region. They build upon existing conservation in the area by the Federal Government, the State of Maine, conservation organizations; and private foundations. The project will ensure public access to networks of motorized and non-motorized trails, and will support wildlife watching, paddling, fishing, and hunting; while continuing the flow of forest products to the surrounding communities. The Rangeley High Peaks project has been submitted by the State of Maine through the Forest Legacy Program, a federal program authorized by the 1990 Farm Bill and funded through the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. The President's budget request provides only \$550,000 for this project.

**Monson Utilities District, Water Distribution Main and Service Line Replacement Project, Monson, Maine -- \$373,500**

This project replaces water mains and service lines which are old, undersized and subject to breaks. The health and welfare of the users is at risk because main breaks leads to coliform contamination. The distribution system does not have valves to shut down portions of the system during main breaks. Additionally, this funding would provide funds to run a main extension to a 24 unit subsidized housing development. This permits the consolidation of two water systems and will have a positive economic benefit for all ratepayers and will allow the town to support new commercial development.

**Saint Joseph's College of Maine, Maine Lakes Invasive Species/Habitat Restoration Initiative, Standish, Maine --\$800,000**

These funds would help support a public-private partnership between Saint Joseph's College of Maine; two major Maine Lake Associations; and volunteer organizations at Maine lakes. This partnership would launch a comprehensive attack on the threat that milfoil, a dangerous invasive species of plant, poses to the 6,000 lakes in the State of Maine. The focus will be on the milfoil infestation threat in Little Sebago Lake and six other lakes as a "test bed" for the development of milfoil action plans for other Maine lakes.

**Trust for Public Land (for Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge), Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge, Portland, Maine -- \$3,000,000**

The Rachel Carson NWR has an opportunity to acquire for half its cost a longstanding priority property in Kennebunkport called Timber Point. This 110 acre property includes 2.25 miles of undeveloped coastline, upland forests, wetlands and marshes that provide critical habitat for a wide variety of wildlife. Permanent protection of the entire 110 acres, on which the refuge already owns a conservation easement over 45 acres, would ensure public access to Maine's coastline in a highly developed part of the state. Finally, refuge acquisition of the Timber Point property will protect nationally significant estuarine and marine resources, including a lobster

nursery, ensure habitat protection for migratory waterfowl and seabirds, and protect the water quality at a nearby public swimming beach. Federal funds will be matched by privately raised donations. The President's request includes \$3 million for this acquisition.

**University of Maine, Managing Invasive Plants in Acadia National Park, Orono, Maine -- \$500,000**

Acadia National Park is a vitally important region to Maine, economically and aesthetically. It is imperative that we determine the extent and potential impact of invasive plants on this national treasure and develop and implement a management plan. The funding will be used to support basic and applied research to better understand what contributes to invasiveness of Japanese barberry and purple loosestrife, and then to collaborate with Acadia National Park on management plan for dealing with the invasive species.

**Regional Request**

**Northern States Research Cooperative -- \$3,000,000 (Requested by University of Maine)**

The Northern States Research Cooperative (NSRC) is a Congressionally-authorized competitive research grant program administered by the USDA's Forest Service designed to coordinate and improve ecological and economic research related to sustainable forest management at land grant